

The Art Major

As one of the few disciplines that emphasize form over function, art truly distinguishes human beings from other species. Artists create visual representations of the world – both real and imagined – using paint, clay and even digital information. When you major in art at PC, you learn to work and think independently, and to trust your ideas. You learn to communicate those ideas through various artistic media, and through writing. And you come away with a solid liberal arts education that prepares you for graduate school and various career paths.

PC's smaller class sizes allow you to interact with fellow students and receive individualized attention from your professors. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study When You Major in Art

By majoring in art, you hone skills that are important in the studio and in the real world. You develop the ability to observe and analyze as you study representative works from art history. Through projects you learn to solve problems, take criticism and see your work through to completion.

In the art department at PC, you gain experience in the tools and techniques of both traditional and new media. Your degree covers a wide range of courses in studio art and art history. The major, which totals 45 hours, allows you to choose 18 hours of electives that fit your interests. In your first two years, you take Survey of Western Art, and Studio Foundations courses in 2D and 3D techniques. Along the way, you'll compile a professional-quality portfolio that includes your artistic statement and images of your work. Your final two years include art projects and seminars that culminate in your senior show in the Harper Center Gallery for the Arts on the PC campus. If eligible, you may also conduct an honors project, which earns you marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma.

Experiences Outside the Classroom

No matter your major, at PC you'll have a number of opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

- **Studying abroad.** PC's art department organizes excursions to a variety of international locations such as Greece, Spain, England and Cuba. Students who study art history abroad for longer terms find that they can better see and understand their surroundings.
- **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
- **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
- **Internships.** Students can intern at art museums to gain hands-on experience, explore career options and earn education credits.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other options are available to you as a student in the art department.

- **Art exhibitions.** PC's Harper Center Gallery for the Arts hosts four exhibitions each year, including the senior art show.
- **Guest exhibitions.** PC's Harper Center Gallery for the Arts annually hosts two exhibitions by nationally/internationally recognized artists.
- **Student art shows.** Twice a year Harper Gallery features original student works, including the Senior Art Major Exhibit.

Careers for Art Majors

Of course, creating art doesn't require a degree. But if art is your passion, having a bachelor's degree in art increases your marketability. According to [Harvard Business Review](#), your liberal arts degree shows employers that you can communicate, collaborate and think critically. And artistic creativity is an obvious and valued asset as graduates enter fields like graphic design, marketing and art direction.

According to [PayScale](#), those with a bachelor's degree in studio art earn an average salary of \$54,000. Many art majors go on to work as creative directors, project managers and interior designers.

Graduates from PC's art department have pursued advanced degrees in fields like art therapy and art education. They have attended notable graduate schools like New York University and Savannah College of Art and Design. Some alumni work in art-related fields such as fine arts education, auctioning and architecture. Others work in law, medicine and other fields outside of the arts.

Fast Facts

1. PC art majors get their own dedicated studio space – so you won't have to work in your dorm room.
2. Every year, PC's art majors visit places like New York City and Washington, D.C. to study contemporary and classic art.
3. Patrick Roeder '07 used the major as his foundation for a career in game development, which he now teaches.
4. Art majors organize senior exhibitions themselves – from hanging and lighting the artwork, to publicity, to coordinating the reception.

Meta Page Description

Prebyterian College's major in art covers both studio art and art history as part of a solid liberal arts education.